

RADIO TV REPORTS, INC.

4701 WILLARD AVENUE, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815 656-4068

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM CBS Evening News STATION WDVM TV
CBS Network

DATE November 10, 1982 7:00 PM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Moyers' Commentary on Guatemala

DAN RATHER: A growing U.S. military involvement in Central America, especially in Guatemala, bring to mind for many people memories of Vietnam. That is the subject tonight of Bill Moyers commentary.

BILL MOYERS: You saw this man on the news last evening. He's a Green Beret Captain in the U.S. Army and he is teaching future officers of the Guatemalan Army how to fight guerrillas.

The guerrillas are not the Army's only target there. Thousands of people, including the innocent, have been killed in the long campaign of Guatemala's right-wing dictators to exterminate any opposition.

The presence of this Green Beret makes it clear to whom the United States has committed our know-how and prestige. He's symbolic of our growing military involvement in Central America, our government's response to leftist movements, like the Marxist rulers of Nicaragua who've proven to be as repressive as the right-wing dictator Somoza had been in his time.

Because Castro has been helping them to supply guerrillas in El Salvador, President Reagan has authorized the CIA to conduct a secret war against the Nicaraguan regime. It's escalated so far beyond its original intentions that one U.S. official is saying the campaign is out of hand and threatens to become a new Bay of Pigs.

That's one problem with covert adventures by a democratic society. Our actual control is less than we think. On the slippery slopes of secrecy, the dirty tricks tend to backfire. Who was hurt most by the campaign to overthrow and assassinate

OFFICES IN: WASHINGTON D.C. • NEW YORK • LOS ANGELES • CHICAGO • DETROIT • AND OTHER PRINCIPAL CITIES

Material supplied by Radio TV Reports, Inc. may be used for file and reference purposes only. It may not be reproduced, sold or publicly demonstrated or exhibited.

Castro? The Communists or us?

The other problem is that our partners in intrigue are often no better champions of justice than the enemies we oppose. That secret war against Nicaragua has put us on the side again of Somoza's old crowd, remnants of his National Guard thirsty for revenge. And our Ambassador in El Salvador admitted last week that right-wing abuses by our side are as great a threat to that country's security as those guerrillas in the hills.

We seem to think that to oppose despotism on the left, we must wink at it on the right. But in Central America today we are doing the cause of human dignity no service by putting ourselves in the hands of rogues masquerading as friends.